

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2016



LEAD OFFICER: KEVIN SHAUGHNESSY, ASSISTANT TRAFFIC ENGINEER (NE)

SUBJECT: PETITION RESPONSE

DIVISION: STAINES SOUTH & ASHFORD WEST

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

A petition has been received from Martin Shortland on behalf of the residents of Celia Crescent which contains 77 signatures and reads:

“We request that the following issues be reviewed in consultation with the residents, reported on and permanently rectified.

1. Flooding – The flooding within Celia Crescent is an environmental issue that presents danger to residents’ property and pedestrians; these dangers are intensified by drivers driving recklessly through the standing water. The flooding issue has been reported to the local authority numerous times by residents in the past with no permanent solution provided.

2. Vehicular Traffic – Traffic calming is urgently required within Celia Crescent to prevent it being used as a ‘rat run’ through road by speeding motorists to bypass the junction at Woodthorpe Road/Kingston Road. Celia Crescent is a small road and is not physically designed to safely accommodate bi directional traffic causing motor vehicles to utilise the footpath as part of the highway presenting an ongoing danger to pedestrians.

3. Anti-Social Driving – A large number of vehicle drivers and motorcyclists make use of Celia Crescent as a race track presenting a very dangerous situation to residents, other road users and pedestrians.

4. Fordbridge Park [NO ENTRY] – The No Entry access point within Celia Crescent requires permanent physical prevention measures to stop drivers from using Celia Crescent as a gateway into the park and disregarding the clear No Entry signs. The anti-social car parking within Celia Crescent of those using the park also requires enforcement.”

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to note the response below:

RESPONSE DETAIL:

Although Surrey County Council introduces traffic calming schemes, it does so in accordance with Government aims to reduce personal injury accidents. In order to best utilise the limited funding available it is only fair and equitable that this is carried out at locations where they are occurring in high numbers, ahead of where there are few or perceived, and not merely to ensure that all vehicles adhere to the posted speed limit.

The Road Safety Team were consulted regarding Celia Crescent and made the following comment:

'I have checked the county council's database of collisions resulting in personal injury recorded by the police. This shows that since the year 2000 there has been just one injury collision on Celia Crescent. This took place at 2:50 am on 30 November 2008 and involved a single vehicle colliding with the park entrance gates. The collision database indicates that this was highly likely to be alcohol related. For info summary information on personal injury collisions can be found on www.crashmap.co.uk. On this evidence Celia Crescent does not appear to have a history of collisions that would cause the highway authority concern. There is already traffic calming in the form of a road table at the junction of Woodthorpe road with Celia Crescent. '

It is an offence for a person to drive a motor vehicle at a speed of more than 30 mph on Celia Crescent. This would be a Police enforcement issue as driving in excess of the posted speed limit is a criminal offence, for which the Police as the sole highway enforcement agency have powers to deal with offenders who flout the law. Obstructive parking would also be a police enforcement issue. In response to a speed complaint received by Surrey Police regarding Celia Crescent Surrey Police are going to put out monitoring equipment to measure traffic speeds.

I would also recommend that the residents investigate Surrey Police Drive SMART campaign. The Drive SMART campaign was launched in September 2009, and is aimed at combating anti-social driving in Surrey in a bid to make the county's roads safer. This is a partnership initiative involving Surrey County Council and Surrey Police, which will tackle driving behaviour that negatively affects the lives of county road users and residents. Any road behaviour that affects other peoples' quality of life in a negative way would be considered as anti-social driving. It could cause an accident or serious injury, or it could simply be annoying or inconvenient to other road users, causing them stress and anxiety. Typical examples include; Speeding, tailgating, driving whilst using a hand-held mobile phone, bad parking (parking on white zig-zags, double yellow lines etc).

The Community Speed Watch is also part of the Drive Smart Initiative. This scheme can be implemented where there are significant community concerns over speeding and road safety. This consist local residents taking part in a visible speed data collection. Surrey Police provide local volunteers with equipment and training to be able to monitor vehicle speeds and note the registration details of speeding vehicles.

The police then issue letters to the keepers of vehicles who have been detected speeding to provide a warning against speeding at that location. Further police action may then be taken against motorists who are detected speeding several times or excessively over the posted speed limit.

For further information on Drive SMART visit the dedicated website: www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk or call Drive Smart on 0300 2001003 or Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222.

Therefore it is highly unlikely that Surrey County Council will be implementing any traffic calming measure of any kind on this road.

Instead at the request of Councillor Turner Stewart we have agreed that we would do an in principal consultation with residents of Celia Crescent on the suggestion of a restriction. If the residents were to be supportive of the suggestion, then subject to funding being available we could commission a feasibility study to look at what options are feasible, and undertake further consultation to determine the preferred option. If a preferred option were to be identified, and subject to further funding and Local Committee approval, we could then implement a new restriction. This consultation would not take place during school holidays as it would be inappropriate to consult when the roads are quieter.

Initially Spelthorne Borough Council and the emergency services will be consulted and approval needed regarding any possible restrictions, especially as Surrey Police would be the ones to enforce any traffic orders.

Regarding the drainage element of the petition. The Maintenance Engineer for Spelthorne arranged for a jetting crew to attend Celia Crescent early August 2016. It was found that one gully out of the four cleaned did bring some clay back which indicates a broken pipe, all the other gullies were draining the carriageway water but at a slower rate than normally expected. Therefore the Maintenance Engineer has arranged for a drainage investigation crew to attend these gullies the week commencing 3rd October 2016 to map the system and repair the broken pipe and hopefully either resolve this issue or have a plan to move forward on. This schedule is subject to change.

Fordbridge Place is not Surrey County Council Highway, this is the responsibility of Spelthorne Borough Council. I believe Spelthorne Borough Council have now installed flow plates on Fordbridge Place to prevent vehicles from ignoring the no entry sign and will monitor this in the future.

Contact Officer:

Kevin Shaughnessy, Assistant Traffic Engineer (NE)

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